

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 15, 22, 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. patent 5,828,387 (Wataya et al) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a printing device including a feed mechanism configured to advance the printing medium intermittently, wherein the feed mechanism is adjusted so that an average feed error  $\delta_{ave}$  is in the vicinity of zero with respect to a most slippery printing medium. Claim 8 recites that the average feed error is in the vicinity of zero with respect to at least one specific printing medium among plural types of printing media. Claim 15 recites a method of adjusting a feed mechanism including a step of adjusting the feed mechanism such that an average feed error  $\delta_{ave}$  is in the vicinity of zero with respect to a most slippery printing medium. Claim 22 recites a method including a step of correcting a feed amount such that an average feed error is in the vicinity of zero with respect to at least one specific printing medium among plural types of printing media. In each case the claim is directed to a feature whereby the feed amount is set such that an average feed error is in the vicinity of zero for a given type of printing medium. For example, if the average printing error is set to be zero for the most slippery printing medium, e.g., photographic paper, dark banding can be avoided (page 11, lines 19-27).

The rejection of Claim 1 (paragraph 4) allegedly quotes several passages of Wataya et al to teach certain features of the claims. However, Applicant notes that the language of the quoted passage is not found in Wataya et al. For example, lines 58-61 of column 3 do not state that a printing device for printing an image on a printing medium comprises a feed mechanism configured to advance the printing medium intermittently. Instead, this portion of Wataya et al describes an object of the invention to provide a recording apparatus capable of controlling the record timings of a plurality of record means for each line during one page

recording. Similarly, lines 10-13 of column 4 of Wataya et al do not describe adjusting the feed mechanism so that an average feed error is in the vicinity of zero with respect to a most slippery printing medium, but instead describe that it is another object of the invention to provide an apparatus capable of correcting a feed speed variable of the recording medium and also an error in detecting a feed speed.

In fact, the teachings of Wataya et al have nothing to do with intermittent feeding of a printing medium or setting an average feed error to be zero with respect to any particular type of printing medium. Instead, Wataya et al is directed to compensating for variations in the feed speed of a printing medium due to thickness variations of a feed belt or outer roundness of a drive roller (column 2, lines 39-50). Wataya et al therefore includes a belt speed sensor 1 and adjusts an image record timing in accordance with the detected feed speed (column 4, lines 15-21).

Thus, with respect to Claims 1 and 15, Wataya et al has no teaching or suggestion of intermittent feed of a printing medium or adjusting an average feed error to be zero with respect to a most slippery printing medium among plural types of printing media designed to be used in the printing device. With respect to Claims 8 and 22, Wataya et al has no teaching of advancing the printing medium intermittently, or correcting a feed amount such that an average feed error is in the vicinity of zero with respect to at least one specific printing medium among plural types of printing media designed to be used in the printing device. Accordingly, all of the claims clearly define over this reference.

Concerning paragraphs 8-13 of the Office Action, U.S. patents 6,158,841 (Kakutani) and 2,714,845 (Cogan) were cited to teach the features of the dependent claims wherein the average feed error has a certain specific value, or the use of roll paper. However, in view of the failure of Wataya et al to disclose the features of independent Claims 1, 8, 15 and 22, it is

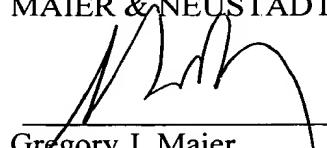
respectfully submitted that no combination of the above references would anticipate or render obvious the subject matter of any of the claims.

The specification has been corrected as required in paragraph 1.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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